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A.F.M.S. Newsletter

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
SERVING SEVEN REGIONAL FEDERATIONS

Visit AFMS on the web at <www.amfed.org>

Volume 61, Number 6
May, 2008

KILL OR CURE - SOME "STOP THE BLEEDING" TREATMENTS TO TRY

by Bob Livingston, EFMLS Past President

Last of a 3-part series.

When a patient is on life support, usually drastic, aggressive measures must be taken to turn things around. Same applies for a club that is fading fast.

If your club is going great guns, most likely you do not need any of this. But just in case, for this last series of hopefully, helpful suggestions, let's assume, somehow you have become aware your club has certain serious problems. In a great many cases, there is no need to throw in the towel, even if it appears the battle is lost.

For starters, you can pick and choose from more than 14 steps, some of which might breathe extended life into a dying club:

-- Quite often due to funding problems and lack of members, the remaining old timers of necessity begin meeting in members homes and all too often on a hit or miss basis. So people know and can plan, you need to establish a regular meeting site and date of the month, and meet monthly ideally.

-- Find somebody to edit and get the simplest of newsletters going if you do not have one. Nowadays with computers this is much easier than in the day of the typewriter. Make sure it gets mailed soon enough so recipients know what is coming up and can plan accordingly to attend. This is really important during the rebuilding process with new members joining and needing to be clued in on things. The former president of the Lynchburg, VA club told me that this was a key Rx in their successful turnaround.

-- Frequently what's needed is a bold-acting, new President. This person needs to be the club "Head Doctor" with a strong commitment to the challenge, plus the abundant energy needed to get through the tough decisions that will be needed. It cannot be business as usual, as that is probably how your club got in trouble in the first place.

The former president of a club in southern New York, a newcomer to the area, told me when he agreed to try to save a club there that was heading down the tubes, he made the membership understand that he would have to be ruthless at times. Early on, members resented him and the changes he made, but once he proved his "back on their feet" plan was working, they got behind him totally. That club has been out of the woods and doing well,

as is their show, for several years now.

-- The new leader will have to bring onto his or her governing board a lot of "new blood" with fresh ideas and ones who support their "success" plan. The folks who have "been there trying" are often times burned out after many years of steadfast service.

-- Good programs mean a lot in getting members and potential members to come to your meetings. Promote same in local weekly papers so outsiders will be aware and come seek you out. This is excellent for recruiting and rebuilding of your club. Don't overlook the list of many good slide, video and now DVD programs available from your Federation lending library. Check your Federation Directory for what's available and its procedure to borrow same. As your treasury builds, recruit some outside speakers from the community, college or local industry. A \$50 donation to them will help. At my home club, we find these programs featuring an outside speaker almost always boost attendance for that particular meeting. Club auctions of rock-hobby stuff seem to also draw well.

-- Take full advantage of the special offerings that your club's membership in a federation provides: insurance to cover you when on a sanctioned club field-collecting trip or club sponsored show or event. Also, glean from the EFMLS newsletter good information for members and include same in your club newsletter. Eastern Federation, Southeast Federation and California Federation all have workshop sessions where you can go and be trained or upgrade your hobby skills. In the East, it is a wonderful spot open to club members from all federations, on a first come, first served basis. Reasonably priced, it is called "Wildacres" located in the wonderful Blue Ridge area of North Carolina. A whole raft of courses related to the lapidary arts and more are taught in 5 weekly sessions currently. And the list goes on.

-- Establish or upgrade a lending library of hobby books for members borrowing/ reference. Needs a dedicated librarian.

-- Put in place a plan to recruit new members. The growth will be needed to generate new income from additional dues which should be kept reasonable. Ideas to help with this: in your local papers under Community Events, Clubs or Meetings, publish the dates, time and place of your meeting and what special topic will be covered. Arrange to put a club exhibit of lapidary works and/ or minerals in a local library. Be sure to include a card or flyers giving meeting place, day of month and time so folks can come and

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First, I'd like to invite you to the Tri-Federation Field Trip to Texas Springs, Nevada. It is just south of Jackpot, NV and you can check earlier AFMS Newsletters or go to <www.amfed.org> and click on "What's New". It's about half way down the column.

Now if you're like Dee and me, and don't have a tent, camper or motor home, you can still participate in the field trips. You just have to be a little creative. We will be staying in a Three Star Hotel/Motel and CASINO, the Horseshu – 1-800-432-0051 in Jackpot, Nevada. You might also choose Cactus Pete – same number as above, but way more expensive; remember it's Memorial weekend. There are other motel/casinos, but since we haven't stayed at any of the others we can't recommend them.

.Barton's Club 93 has a number of rooms and also RV parking. You can reach them at: 1-800-258-2937. We've already got our reservations, so don't delay. Don't forget the field trips start each day at 8:30 am sharp (Rocky Mountain time, not Pacific time), and we suggest you get there early, at least by 8:00 am. That means an early breakfast at the motel and about a 2.5 mile drive south down Hiway 93 to the turn-off - California National Historic trail. From there you just follow the orange plates to the camp. See you all there.

Did you know that this is the "YEAR OF THE WEBMASTER"? Unknown to many of you till now, I have been honoring the regional webmasters at the conventions this year. Starting in November, 2007 with the Southeast Federation's convention in Biloxi, MS, Jim Flora, Webmaster for Southeast was honored with a plaque from me for his dedicated work for the Southeast. Fortunately Jim was there to received the honor personally. In February we attended the Eastern Federation's convention in Jackson, MS where Dan Imel, Webmaster for Eastern Federation was honored. Unfortunately Dan wasn't there to accept, but Eastern's 2nd VP accepted the plaque and promised to see Dan received it. (Did you know Dan does double duty as webmaster for SCRIBE, the bulletin editors organization?). I will be honoring Jack Eads, Northwest Federation Webmaster at Ontario, Oregon in June and Don Ogden, California Federation's Webmaster at the convention in Ventura, CA, also in June. I would have liked to visit with Midwest Federation's Webmaster Cindy Root, who, as far as we know, is the only lady webmaster at the regional level. I'll forward her plaque to be given to her to Joy Bourne, AFMS President-Elect who will be standing in for me. There will be two plaques in September when South Central Webmaster, Al Pennington is honored along with a special presentation to the AFMS webmaster Marty Hart. In November we will honor the Rocky Mt. Webmaster, Jim McGarvey, at their show in Tulsa, OK. If you haven't taken the time to check out all the regional as well as the AFMS websites, please do. These dedicated people are doing all of us a huge service we need to acknowledge. I have asked two people to work on a contest for club webmasters, more on this as we get nearer to the AFMS meeting in Houston.

Next, Ron Carman and his Ad Hoc Committee who are looking into our various contests has been at work. Members Bob & Kathy Miller of Midwest have put together a survey that was in the Midwest Newsletter asking what clubs and individuals think about the various AFMS contests, and if there is something preventing clubs or individuals from participating in them. Eastern's rep, Mary Bateman is doing the same for her federation members. If you have any thoughts on this, please contact a member of the committee or send me an email or letter with your thoughts. All these programs are great, the problem is could we make them better and get more participation or is there something that is holding back participation???

Our AFMS Junior Programs chair, Jim Brace-Thompson has done a fantastic job in getting the AFMS Junior badge program off and running. BUT, is your club participating? Right now we have 4,363 members in the Northwest; 7438 members in the Southeast; 9774 members in Eastern; 9415 in California; 6711 in Rocky Mountain; 7646 in Midwest; and 3330 in South Central for a total of 48,677 members. Unfortunately this doesn't tell us how many clubs in each federation, but the ratio of juniors participating in the program is definitely LOW. Consider this, there are scout clubs and other clubs who have requested information on this program. Jim has to refer them to a club in their area because they cannot participate unless they belong to a regional club. This is a perfect way to bring new members in to your clubs, reach out to schools who have science programs, scouts, home school programs, be creative and let's see if we can bring these students into our hobby. In the mean time, there are clubs out there with juniors, please see that they are able to participate, it's such a worthwhile program.

Our new AFMS Rockhound of the Year chair, Loretta Ogden mentioned in her article in the April 2008 AFMS Newsletter, that she had only heard from two of the SEVEN regional federations regarding Rockhound of the Year honorees. Don't let her down, get your letters in the mail. I could personally list a group of people in each federation who deserve this honor so please show Loretta that you support this program and want to honor your club's Rockhound of the Year.

And finally, HAVE YOU EACH WRITTEN A LETTER TO THE CITIZENS STAMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE, STAMP DEVELOPMENT, US POSTAL SERVICE, 1735 North Lynn St. Room 5013, Arlington, VA 22209-6432. Include in your letter your birthstone and where in the US it's found. (A list of the stones and the states can be found in the 2008 AFMS February issue, page 2 – and also on the amfed.org website) Also send a copy of the letter to your Congressman and Senator. Individual letters, no petitions as these only count as one letter no matter how many signatures.

Have you counted the number of times throughout this article that I used the word PARTICIPATE? The AFMS and the regional federations can only offer you programs, it's up to you to participate..... there, there's one more....

More thoughts next month, Your AFMS president
Shirley Leeson
Note new email for our Idaho ranch: <beauholland@centurytel.net>

MEDIA FOR THE AFMS MASSES...AND...AN IDEA TO CONSIDER

by Joy Bourne, AFMS President-elect

Thank you to the many editors who are including me in your mailing lists - I am truly enjoying receiving and reading your newsletters from all parts of this great country. Perhaps you do not realize it, but you are actually painting mental pictures for me of your clubs and federations in furnishing me with all sorts of enjoyable, interesting and informational reading. You're really looking good!

Newsletter editors are just about our most valuable members. It is they who see to it that we become acquainted with your officers, your committee-persons and members; they report your club's interests and needs. We gain ideas for new programs and field trip localities, and they enable us to keep up to date on legislative concerns in your areas; not to mention the sharing of shop and safety tips and new ideas for the workshops. We of AFMS have been truly blessed to have two excellent media moguls in charge of our accessibility to information in the AFMS newsletter and the on the AFMS website. Carolyn Weinberger, super-editor of the AFMS Newsletter mails all the latest news, almost every month, to Officers, Federations and local clubs. I don't know how many she mails, but I know it is a big number! The complete AFMS Newsletter is posted on the website too, by Marty Hart, our tireless and talented AFMS Webmaster. Marty is always ready to post announcements of special current and upcoming events, and of course, Federation news and notes - even the full manual, complete with current updates for the Uniform Rules competitions.

In addition to current officers' and committee lists for the AFMS, you can find that just about any contact information you need about the people of AFMS is just a click away on the website. You can also find links to all the Regional Federations; and hence to individual clubs, many of which also furnish their local club's newsletters - meaning that you have a personal copy of your own newsletter every month; delivered (a week or more earlier than usual) directly to your desk.

Now for the new idea. As I am sure you have noted recently, the publishing and mailing costs of producing newsletters and directories are skyrocketing, with another postage increase already slated for this year. Perhaps it a good time for many of us to consider an alternative idea: How about looking to a different, up-to-date vehicle for disseminating our information - namely, the www media? Recently I polled the AFMS Endowment Fund committee as to how they felt about receiving pictures of the prizes being offered for the 2008 Fund Raiser as pdf-files via e-mail. Their response was overwhelmingly in favor of the idea. Two main reasons factored in their thinking: 1. No cost to AFMS for postage, and 2. Immediate receipt of the latest pictures and descriptions of the prizes - They can simply print out the page and immediately have it to show to potential patrons of the Annual Drawing for prizes.

Why not take advantage of e-mailing more of our bulletins too? Many of our editors across the country regularly e-mail theirs already. We now live in an age of faster line-speeds; beautiful full-color pictures; and think about the ease of copying articles and/or pictures for bulletin exchange! The storage of back issues is no problem - all back issues are archived on the website for easy retrieval. No more stuffed-to-overflowing filing cabinets. And think of all the trees we can save! Best of all: It's FREE !!

Think about it! and let me know what you think.

Joy



LET'S GET BIRTHSTONES ON STAMPS!

by Wendell Mohr, Commemorative Stamp Committee

Have you taken the time to write the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee requesting that birthstones be used on our US stamps? There are over 50,000 members of our AFMS affiliated clubs and if every one of us wrote to the CSAC we believe our requests would be hard to ignore. Involve your friends and non-rock-hounding friends too.

Pictured at right is the poster that was displayed at the Tucson show this year. Although these images are photos of gemstones in the Smithsonian Institution collection, imagine how attractive stamps featuring ruby, topaz, peridot, garnet, pearl, amethyst, aquamarine, emerald, sapphire, turquoise, diamond and opal would be!

Address your letters (no petitions please as these get counted as only one letter regardless of how many signers there are) to:

Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
US Postal Service
1735 N. Lynn St, Room 5013
Arlington, VA 22209-6432



Purpose of the AFMS:

To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and other related subjects, and to sponsor and provide means of coordinating the work and efforts of all persons and groups interested therein; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and by and through such means to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

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THE LIST OF PRIZES IS GROWING FAST - MORE ARE IN THE WORKS!

by Joy Bourne, AFMS Endowment Chair

During the past month I have received five great new prizes to add to the treasure chest for Texas next September. Our generous contributors from the seven Regional Federations have come through again this year with some very special gifts to encourage your donations to the 2008 Endowment Fund. You won't want to miss seeing these!

Prize #5: Faceted Oval London Blue Cubic Zirconia gemstone. The 10.5 ct. gem is mounted in a dramatic 14k gold pendant mounting, and measures 14mm x 10mm. This lovely keepsake stone was cut, mounted and donated by Steve Weinberger, AFMS Central Office Coordinator, and WildAcres instructor, especially for the 2008 Endowment Fund Drawing. The prize is valued at \$200. (EFMLS)



Prize #6: Texas Topaz. A natural, pale-blue Mason County, Texas, 9.60 carat topaz, faceted in the Lone Star cut. This topaz was impeccably cut and donated by master faceter, Don Buhl, a member of the Williamson County Gem and Mineral Club in Georgetown, TX. Valued by the donor-dealer at \$437.70. (SCFMS).



Prize #7: US Balance Digital Scale, valued at approximately \$100.00. Measuring 6-1/2" x 7-1/2", this is a most useful item to have around the home and workshop for obtaining exact digital weight measurement for larger gem stones; postal/mailling use; shipping use, kitchen uses and more! Donated by Dan Cecrle, member of the Rollin Rock Club. (SCFMS).



Prize #8: Engraved Glass Vase. B. Jay Bowman, President of the Rough & Tumbled Rock & Gem Club in Ponca City OK., has created another masterpiece for us to offer this year!. This vase is approx. 12-1/2" tall, 6-1/2" in diameter. at the base and 4-1/2" at the top. The glass is about 3/8" thick. The title of the piece is "The Four Witches II," and the engraving features four graceful and flowing figures of witches dancing around the lower circumference of the vase. Pictured are the vase, as well as four close-up pictures of each of the witches to show all the details. The piece is conservatively valued at \$ 225.00. (RMFMS and EFMLS).



Prize #9: Float Copper Cabinet Specimen and Mining Stock Certificate. The unusual piece of copper



was collected in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (Keweenaw County). The specimen weighs just under 3 lb. It measures 4" long, 3-1/2" wide and the high point is 4". In addition to the copper, a bonus prize is included: A mining

stock share certificate, dated August 1858, good for 100 shares of common stock at the price of \$5.00 per share from the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company. Unfortunately, the certificate is a mining artifact and has no monetary value attached to it. This prize was donated by Pamela Hecht, currently serving as MWF President, who values the total prize at \$75.00. (MWF)



Be on the watch for new additions to the list next month - we have more prizes on the way! Our trusty agents in all seven Regional Federations have plenty of coupons to pass along for your \$5.00 donations each, or if you want more, they will give you five coupons for a contribution of \$20.00. Or, if you cannot contact your Regional Committee Chair, you can send your check to me and I'll put your coupons in the mail immediately.

Joy Bourne
RR #1, Box 159A
Towanda PA 18848.

Questions? Phone (570) 265-6454 or e-mail
csprings@epix.net.

In any case, you will all be winners of the special programs and services funded by the interest proceeds of the AFMS Endowment Fund!



HAVING FUN - JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

by Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Jr. Activities Chair

UPDATING JRS. PAGES ON AFMS WEB SITE and A THANK YOU!

Having finished my work revising and updating



the FRA Merit Badge program, I've recently turned my efforts toward updating the Kids Corner section of the AFMS web site. I encourage you to visit the site. Here are some of the changes you should soon see:

- A revised AFMS FRA Application Form.
- The newly revised, updated, and expanded

AFMS FRA Merit Badge Manual. This now includes activities for kids to earn up to 15 merit badges, along with their Membership patch and the Rockhound badge. In addition to adding 6 new badges to the original set of 9, I've added new features, such as a Dinosaurs unit for the Fossils badge and cross references at the ends of activities to indicate those that can be applied toward earning more than one badge at a time. I've also expanded the introduction to include tips on starting a new juniors club.

• How to Use the AFMS FRA Badge Program. This brief, single-page overview explains how the program works and how to start using it with kids in your club.

• Clearing Up Misperceptions about the AFMS FRA Program. Several misperceptions are standing in the way of some clubs using the FRA program. This article tackles such misperceptions and encourages all affiliated clubs to sign their kids up today.

• Suggestions on Forming a Youth Group. The title says it all!

• FRA Roster. I've contacted all clubs that have ever expressed interest in FRA, and as a result, we have an updated roster of those maintaining an active affiliation with the program. If your club is thinking of using the FRA program and wants input, these will be the clubs to call!

• An FRA "Honor Roll." This lists all kids (with their club affiliations) who have ever earned the "Rockhound" badge by completing 6 or more of the merit badges.

• Finally, we also have a lot of material still on the web site that's 10 years old or older, and I'll be revisiting all that to see what remains relevant and what should be deleted in order to streamline what's contained in the Kids Corner section.

In next month's column, I'll provide an update on current status of the FRA program, including statistics on the number of clubs now involved, the numbers and types of badges being awarded, recognition of those clubs most actively using the badge program, etc. Also, before the year is over, I still wish to write an article on the history of FRA. Howie Whiting of the Rocky Mountain Federation has responded to an earlier call I made and has given me details of the earliest years of its formation. I thank you, Howie! And I now ask that anyone else with knowledge of the FRA program over the years to follow up on Howie's lead and get in touch with me (805-659-3577, <jbraceth@roadrunner.com>).

Finally, on behalf of the Federation, I offer a sincere thank you to the family of Bill Robards and the South Bay Gem & Lapidary Club of California. Bill passed away last fall, and at his family's request, the South Bay club has donated \$50 toward the juniors program. On behalf of the kids, let's all give thanks!

WORDS OF CAUTION

by John Wright, Conservation & Legislation Chair

There are two major bills, which at present are working their way through Congress that you need to be aware of as they could severely restrict access to public owned lands:

The first one is HR 2016, National Landscape Conservation System. If passed, this bill will essentially place 26 million acres of public lands controlled by BLM under a "National Park" type system which will eliminate or severely limit any type of recreational mining. This bill could also open the door for BLM under the influence of special interest groups to add millions of additional acres in years to come. More information on this bill can be found online at: "Lands Rights Network" <alert@landrights.org>. Subject: House Mark-Up, Wednesday 3-12, On National Landscape Conservation System. (For more information go to American Land Rights Assoc. website - <www.landrights.org>).

The second bill that we should be concerned about is HR 5610, Designation of Wilderness Areas, which according to a BlueRibbon Coalition Action Alert, dated Wednesday, March 19, 2008, Subject: Shades of things to come?, <bralerts@sharetrails.org>, "the bill would designate just about 500,000 acres of Wilderness in West Virginia, Arizona's Tumacacori Highlands; the Redwood Mountain Grove in California's Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park; the Sabinoso Wilderness in New Mexico; Oregon's Copper Salmon area and the South Fork of the San Jacinto River Canyon in Riverside County, California." With these lands being designated as "Wilderness Areas" public access will be almost completely eliminated. (For more information, go to the BlueRibbon Coalition website <www.sharetrails.org>).

Once the 26 million acres of public lands controlled by BLM are placed under a "National Park" type system by HR 2016, it is very reasonable to assume that at some date in the not to distant future these sites will also be designated "Wilderness Areas" by a bill similar to HR 5610. The public may be allowed to visit certain parts of these areas to look but not touch. The really disturbing part about all of this is that the millions of acres covered by these two bills are only a small portion of a grandiose plan by special interest groups to eventually join numerous areas like these into plots far larger than your wildest dreams.

While we rest on our laurels, our adversaries are very diligently working to have public lands placed "Off Limits". They know that this is an election year and "Green" is definitely a popular theme with politicians lately. Who knows, perhaps they think there could be another Oscar or Nobel Prize waiting out there. Remember, we also have a vote and should certainly let our desires be known.



BE SAFE — BE WELL

by Don Monroe, AFMS Safety Chair

Are We Maturing?

Is our attitude and emphasis regarding safety improving?

When I started doing these safety articles I was discouraged by what I saw to be apathy on the part of our rockhounds. I now look at the situation differently and I think I can see signs of concern. It may be wishful thinking on my part but I really don't think so.

Have you noticed more concern at all levels of government about safety such as product safety and insurance coverage? We have a long way to go to protect ourselves from ourselves but we are moving in the right direction.

Closer to home it was a long time before I received feedback about the safety articles. Now, almost every article prompts some one to send me a comment. When I first started doing the articles, I talked with Carolyn Weinberger, the AFMS editor, about my concern that I was not getting the job done. Her reply was "just look at the number of times your articles are being reprinted in club and federation bulletins". "That should tell you are reaching the readers."

There is another good thing happening. In the past year, I have received articles from our people that were not only very well done and appropriate but were ready for printing. Now that really makes my job much easier. I cannot be everywhere and see every thing and I certainly am not the only one with ideas regarding safety. The list of "helpers" is very long and includes interested members from all federations who have contributed to the effort and helped me pass the word and share ideas.

I am now asking all of you to join in the safety effort and share your thoughts, ideas and articles. I will accept any idea and in any format. I like to give credit to my "helpers" but will let you remain anonymous if you insist.

With heartfelt thanks,

Don Monroe



AFMS CLUB ROCKHOUND OF THE YEAR

from Loretta Ogden, AFMS Chair



Midwest Federation

As a former recipient of this award, I would like to nominate **David Liss** for Rockhound of the Year for Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society. He is like our club's goodwill ambassador, ready to talk to anyone about our club and our hobby. Outgoing and friendly, it is easy to see he is passionate and knowledgeable about rocks, minerals and fossils. He likes to share his love of the hobby and frankly, his enthusiasm is infectious. Never failing to bring something in for show and tell, he is great at stimulating discussion and helping to get people interested. Any club would be lucky to have him his as a member. In this day and age, when membership and participation in clubs have been declining, it is important to have someone who presents such a positive image of our hobby. David Liss does this effortlessly.

submitted by David Dick
President, Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society



Northwest Federation

North Puget Sound Faceting Guild nominates **Bob Jimenez** as our Rockhound of the Year. Texas rock hounds, Bob (and his wife Shirley, now deceased) moved to Washington in 1998 and immediately became involved in the Whidbey Pebble Pushers and the North Puget Sound Faceting Guild. Bob became the editor of both club newsletters--winning many honors for his editorial expertise. Bob and Shirley were officers in both organizations. They enthusiastically planned and helped coordinate two faceting conferences held by the faceting guild. Bob was instrumental in starting a school program honoring children for exemplary behavior. Students received polished rocks as their reward. Bob also helped junior rock hound activities including field trips, teaching about rocks and displaying. Although Shirley never got Bob to facet, he published a thorough and interesting bulletin for nearly 10 years. Bob has demonstrated a high standard of excellence in all aspects of the hobby and we thank and salute him!

submitted by Vi Jones, President
and Beverly Dillon, Federation Director

Have you selected your 2008 Rockhound of the Year?
If not, what's keeping you from doing it?
Honor one member or couple and a junior for their contributions...it's free and easy
Contact your Regional ACROY Chair for Details

ALL AMERICAN CLUB "YEARBOOK" ENTRIES - FOR 2008

by John Washburn, AFMS Chair



Wait a minute – we just finished submitting our entries for 2007! We have to start working on one for 2008? Already?

I know that some of you are just breathing sighs of relief. You've finished a challenging task and, rightfully, want to rest on your laurels. But, it

really is time to think about your 2008 entry. If you didn't put together an entry for 2007, consider this. What's the big deal? Why put together your club yearbook and enter it in the competition for an All American Club Award? There are several important reasons.

•First, the record you put together of the activities your club participated in for the year serves as an excellent club history. Your members can archive this history as a lasting memory and a guideline for the next generation of leaders.

•Secondly, your entry can take a prominent place on the Membership Table at your show – highlighting the activities of the past year for prospective members. Pictures of your members having a good time together speak volumes in an entertaining way.

•It can play a role in pulling your membership together. The "rah-rahs" and accolades over a job well done can work wonders in refurbishing the self-pride in your organization.

I'd like to help you go through the process of putting an entry together, but we have to start now. Download an Application Form from the Web site <www.amfed.org> and go to the end of the

form. That's right, the end of the form – Section 6. This is the section that deals with government agencies and legislative relations, and it is a section that some clubs have difficulty accomplishing. We're going to start here because it will take some time to write letters to government leaders and get a response back.

Here are some things to do.

1. You can ask for volunteers in your club to write to legislators in opposition to the passage of Senate Bill S 320 – the Paleontological Preservation Act that restricts the casual collecting of paleontological materials such as invertebrate fossils, plant fossils, and isolated and disarticulated vertebrate remains from Federal lands. Better yet, approach a few people and ask them directly. It's easy to not volunteer, harder to say "no."

2. Do your research first. Find the names of your senators and legislators – with the correct addresses. Check: <www.senate.gov> for senators; check: <www.house.gov/MemberWWWW.shtml> for legislators.

3. Talk to your club leadership about joining the American Lands Access Association – the lobbying arm of the AFMS to support land access/collecting lobbying. Check the following for more information: <www.amfed.org/ALAA.htm> and <www.amlands.org>.

Get into the right mind set and hold on. Next, we'll tackle getting organized to distribute the work load and get members involved. Start making copies of you club bulletins to use for documentation. Put them in a safe place.

Even if you decide not to enter the competition, but you put together a book, following our guidance, you will have an excellent product. At my club's show the "yearbook" draws members like flies to honey!

CONVENTION NEWS

by Shiara Trumble, HGMS

HGMS has been busy planning space and menus for the federation events to be held at our annual show; with special events and trips scheduled September 24-28. For those of you planning to attend the Editors' Breakfast, Awards Banquet, and the AFMS Officers Luncheon, venues and meals being planned are listed below. If you have special dietary restrictions, please let us know when you send in your registration for the various events. We will make every reasonable effort to accommodate your needs.

The AFMS Officers' Luncheon is scheduled for Friday (September 26) at noon. We will be meeting at Café East; 260 W. 1st Street in Humble. Café East Chinese Restaurant is among the largest buffet restaurants in town, and it offers a daily buffet with a soup bar serving a wide variety of delicious Chinese and international soups, a cold food bar serving an extensive selection of salad and cold foods, and a hot food bar with a wide variety of Chinese and international dishes. They also have sushi rolls, jumbo shrimp cocktail, and lettuce wrap. Their most popular dishes include- mixed grille, General Tso's Chicken, Pepper Steak, and Grilled Chicken.

The Editors' Breakfast will be held at 8:00 a.m. Saturday (September 27) at the Humble City Café, 200 East Main St. in Humble. We'll be in their recently redecorated private room and will have a buffet including eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, dry cereal, fruit, coffee, tea, water, and orange juice.

The Awards Banquet is at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday. It will be held in the Humble Civic Center Hospitality Room, and will be catered by CW Smokehouse. We'll be serving a traditional Texas barbecue of smoked sliced brisket with barbecue sauce, smoked sausage, potato salad, baked beans, garlic bread, peach cobbler, coffee, tea, and water.

If you plan to attend, please send in your registration forms before August 24, 2008 in order to ensure your problem-free enjoyment of the various functions.

HGMS is looking forward to a great show and Federation conference in September! The schedule for all meetings and show events is printed on the following pages of this newsletter and can also be seen at <www.hgms.org>. Click on the Show Registration-button to view the schedules and to print the registration forms.

REGIONAL FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

from Bob Livingston, AFMS Convention Coordinator

| | California Federation | Eastern Federation | Midwest Federation | Northwest Federation | Rocky Mountain Federation | South Central Federation | Southeast Federation |
|------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2008 | June 27-29 Ventura, CA | Feb. 23-24 Jackson, MS | June 20-22 Lincoln, NE | June 20-22 Ontario, OR | Nov. 7-9 Tulsa, OK | AFMS Sept. 25-28 Humble, TX | |
| 2009 | | | May 16-17 Parma, OH | AFMS July 30 - Aug. 2 Billings MT | | | |
| 2010 | AFMS Aug. 5 - 10 Riverside, CA | | | | | | |

AFMS SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

by Dee Holland, Scholarship Foundation President

I'd like to introduce you to some hardworking people. They are the ones who collect the money from individuals and clubs for their region. Did you know you could honor a living person in your regional federation or your club by sending in a donation? What a nice way to say thanks, and to help college or university students who are struggling with money to obtain their graduate degrees.

California Federation
Sue Reeves
PO Box 1899
San Andreas, CA 95249
<star@volcano.net>

Eastern Federation
Bob Livingston
59 Ely Drive
Fayetteville, NY 13066
<gemguy@verizon.net>

Midwest Federation
Marge Collins
2017 nils-Buchanan Road
Buchanan, MI 49107
<margaret@qtm.net>

Northwest Federation
Rose McArthur
33427 Highway 212
Orofino, ID 83544
<obmcarthur@cpcinternet.com>

Rocky Mountain Federation
Sandy Cannedy
Rt 1, Box 7
Binger, OK 73009
<jscannedy@att.net>

South Central Federation
Jonathan Moehring
2835 Grandview Dr
Grand Prairie, TX 75052
<jmark@flash.net>



These are the people who keep track of club percentages and records of individual and club donations. They in turn send the information on to the AFMS Scholarship Treasurer, Arlene Burkhalter.

I would be happy to see you make their work even more rewarding by sending in donations and memorials and even money collected from other club events. To you who continue to support the AFMS Scholarship Program – sincere thanks.

Dee Holland
AFMS Scholarship President

Ruth Bailey
AFMS Scholarship Secretary

Arlene Burkhalter
AFMS Scholarship Treasurer

Note:

The Southeast Federation has their own Scholarship Program:
Contact Bill Waggener
1909 Moores Mill Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30318
<wgwaggenerii@bellsouth.net>

QUICK TIPS FOR EDITORS

by Linda Jaeger, Club Publications Chair

If you have a question (or suggestion) about editing or writing or the bulletin contest or something related, send it to me by email: <LjgrAlg@aol.com> or at home address: 3515 E. 88th St., Tulsa, OK 74137. If I cannot find an answer to your question, we'll publish the question and ask the readers for their answers.



BREAKFAST WITH THE EDITORS 2008

Did you know the AFMS breakfast where awards are presented to winners in the Bulletin Editor's Contest is for EVERY-ONE? You do not have to be an editor to attend!

The 2008 SCFMS/AFMS Show & Convention will be in Humble, TX (Houston area), September 26-28. Our hosts are the Houston Gem & Mineral Society. If you are coming to the show (which promises to be outstanding!), be sure to join the editors for the awards breakfast.

Are you an editor? If you are notified that some of your entries are in the top 10 for AFMS, be sure to let those authors know they are in the top 10 nationally and invite them to attend the breakfast to accept their awards in person. And remember – you're invited to the breakfast, too.

Are you a club member? You do need to eat breakfast that day. Why not join other rockhounds for fun, fellowship, and to give a pat on the back to the people responsible for communication in our hobby?

Need show information? This issue of the AFMS Newsletter has the schedule of events and forms you'll need or check the AFMS website at <www.amfed.org/show2008.htm>. You can download a show flyer from that page, as well as all the other show-related information available. To make reservations for the breakfast, you can click on the hot link, [Advance Registration Form](#). It includes options for the meals, show admissions, and field trips.

I'm looking forward to seeing you there!

(Clip art above from Discovery Channel School Image Gallery, ©2003. Permission to use for educational, not for sale publications granted.)

AFMS CODE OF ETHICS

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
 - I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
 - I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
 - I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
 - I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
 - I will leave all gates as found.
 - I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
 - I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
 - I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
 - I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
 - I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
 - I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and Will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
 - I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
 - I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on

public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

Welcome AFMS Delegates and Guests!

We are happy you have chosen to be with us for our Annual Show. We are honored to serve as host for both the National and Regional Show and hope your stay with us is enjoyable.

The host hotel for our show is Comfort Suites Kingwood.(22223 Hwy 59; No. Humble, TX 77339. Ph: 281-359-4448.) Please reserve your rooms by September 17 in order to be assured of the HGMS rate. You will need to call this hotel directly.

A list of other accommodations is below. All are within 10 minutes of the show. Direct phone numbers to the accommodations are shown, but since all are part of chains, you can probably call the chains toll free number for reservations.

Hampton Inn Humble
20515 Hwy 59 North; Humble, TX

Houston Central KOA (RV & Camping)
1620 Peachleaf; Houston, TX
Reserve: 800-562-2132
Info: 281-442-3700

Marriott Hotels Resorts Suites Bush Inter. Airport
18700 John F Kennedy Blvd; Houston, TX
281-443-2310

Country Inn & Suites
20611 Hwy 59 N; Humble, TX
281-446-4977

Holiday Inn Express Kingwood
22675 Hwy 59 North; Kingwood, TX
281-359-2700

Best Western
Bush Intercontinental Airport
6900 Will Clayton Pkwy; Humble, TX
281-446-3041

Ramada Inn Intercontinental Airport South
15350 JFK Blvd;
Beltway 8 North/I-45 & Hwy 59; Houston, TX
281-442-1830

Homewood Suites
23320 Highway 59 North; Kingwood, TX
281-358-5566

Fairfield Inn
20525 Highway 59; Humble, TX
281-540-3311



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Houston Gem & Mineral Society is excited to be hosting the 2008 AFMS/SCFS Annual Show and Convention in Houston, Texas on September 26-28, 2008. The Show and Convention will be held at the Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, Texas. Below is a schedule of events for the 2008 Show and Convention including ongoing attractions that you won't want to miss!

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

12 noon to 6 p.m. Registration begins Comfort Suites
1:00 p.m. Uniform Rules Committee Comfort Suites

Thursday, September 25, 2008

8:00 a.m. Registration begins; Show setup
All exhibits must be in place by 8 p.m. Humble Civic Center
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. AFMS Annual Meeting Octavia Fields Library
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. AFMS Scholarship Foundation Meeting Octavia Fields Library

Friday, September 26, 2008

8:30 a.m. Judges Meeting Humble Civic Center Ticket Room
9:00 a.m. Show Opens, Judging begins Humble Civic Center
Morning Public/Private Schools' Earth Science Program
12:00 noon AFMS Officers Luncheon Café East
Afternoon Home Schoolers' Earth Science Program
2:00 p.m. AFMS Cut Stone Scholarship Auction HCC Scout Room
6:00 p.m. Gem & Mineral Show Closes

Saturday, September 27, 2008

8:00 a.m. Breakfast With the Editors Humble City Cafe
9:00 a.m. Gem & Mineral Show Opens Humble Civic Center
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Texas Facetors' Guild Symposium Comfort Suites
10:00 a.m. Scout Merit Badge Program begins
11:00 a.m. Exhibitors and Judges Conference
2:00 p.m. SCFMS Annual Meeting Octavia Fields Library
6:00 p.m. Gem & Mineral Show Closes
7:00 p.m. AFMS/SCFMS Awards Banquet HCC Hospitality Room

Sunday, September 28, 2008

8:00 a.m. Rollin' Rock Club Meeting
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon Texas Facetors' Guild Symposium Comfort Suites
10 a.m. Gem & Mineral Show Opens Humble Civic Center
11:00 a.m. Scout Merit Badge Program begins
5:00 p.m. Gem & Mineral Show Closes
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Remove display cases and dealer move-out

Field Trips:

Meet at the Convention Center Registration Desk at the HCC 15 minutes ahead of departure times.

Friday, September 26

8:00 a.m. Whiskey Bridge.

This is a "type locality" for mid-Eocene invertebrate fossils. Vehicles will caravan to the site. It's about a 2.5 hour drive.

Sunday, September 28

10:30 a.m.. Houston Museum of Natural Sciences Tour and HGMS Clubhouse Tour. Museum tour will include the permanent exhibits as well as one of the special exhibits. In the past, group tour rates have been around \$10 for entry into the special exhibit. Please check <www.HGMS.org> for updated information regarding the special exhibit. There is a McDonald's in the museum or you may pack a lunch. Vehicles will caravan to the site.

After the museum tour we will have two guides available - one to take you back to the Humble Civic Center and another to take you to the HGMS Clubhouse for a tour of the facilities, then back to the HCC. Light refreshments will be available at the clubhouse.

1:00 p.m. HGMS Clubhouse tour for those who wish to tour the HGMS Clubhouse, but not the museum. Light refreshments will be available.

Ongoing Activities:

Fossil Identification
Gemstone Identification
Mineral Identification
Dino Dig
Silent Auction

Special Exhibits:

Bureau of Economic Geology
Fluorescent Display
Houston Geological Society
Houston Museum of Natural Science
Mad Science
Proctor Museum
Rock Food Table

Ongoing Demonstrations:

Casting
Cutting Cabochons
Dinosaur Modeling
Faceting Gemstones
Flintknapping
Jewelry Making
Working with Precious Metal Clay



Application to Exhibit

2008 AFMS/SCFMS SHOW & CONVENTION
HOSTED BY THE HOUSTON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
Humble Civic Center - September 24 through 28, 2008



NAME _____

PHONE (_____) _____

ADDRESS _____
Street City State Zip

CLUB AFFILIATION _____ E-MAIL _____

DIVISION _____ CLASS _____

GROUP **Master** _____ **Advanced** _____ **Novice** _____ **Junior** _____ **Society** _____ **Jr. Society** _____

If Junior, give date of birth: _____

If Non-competitive, check here: _____

This display is to be entered into (check one) _____ SCF competition _____ direct AFMS entry

If direct entry, indicate when and where eligibility was earned _____

NOTE: Entries in SCF competition that earn trophy eligibility will automatically be entered in AFMS competition.

For competitive exhibits, the exhibitor should sign below:

"I hereby submit my application to exhibit and attest that all material displayed is my own property, or for lapidary or jewelry, all work was accomplished by me."

Signature: _____

For competitive exhibits, an officer of the exhibitor's society must sign below:

I attest that the above-named exhibitor is a member of the _____
(Society name)

Signature _____ Office held: _____

Check one: _____ I will need to borrow an HGMS case
_____ I have my own case, size: Length (front) _____ Depth _____ Height _____

Entries must be received by August 24, 2008

This form may be duplicated

(KEEP THIS PORTION) 1. Exhibits may be set up from 12 noon to 8 p.m., Thursday, September 25, 2008. All exhibits must be in place by 8 p.m., September 25, 2008. 2. Each exhibitor should check in with the Exhibits Chairperson to receive a space assignment. 3. All exhibits must remain in place until the show ends at 5 p.m. on September 28, 2008, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Show Chairperson. 5. The Houston Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. will furnish around the clock security in the exhibits buildings, but the Society will not be responsible for any loss or damage to the exhibits. 6. The show location will be Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway in Humble, Texas. 7. Entry forms must be returned by August 24, 2008, to: Shiara Trumble 21142 Southern Colony Katy, TX 77449

AFMS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Here is the listing of the people who have agreed to serve as AFMS Chairs for 2006-7. Please feel free to contact these people or the person in your regional federation who serves on the as well- if you need information or have ideas to share with them.

AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year
Loretta Ogden
<donogden@aol.com>

AFMS Newsletter
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<editor@amfed.org>

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Bulletin Editor Hall of Fame
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ByLaws Revisory
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Central Office
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Club Publications
Linda Jaeger
<ljalrg@aol.com>

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Wendell Mohr - Chair
<wmohr@erols.com>

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John Wright
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John Washburn
<jrwashburn2@msn.com>

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Joy Bourne
<csprings@epix.net>

Financial Investment
Lauren Williams
<slhaaruir@msn.com>

Historian
Shirley Leeson
<shirleyleeson@msn.com> and
< >

International Relations
Bob Jones
<bjonesb52@gmail.com>

Judges Training Seminar
Dee Holland, Chair
<beauholland@centurytel.net >

Junior Programs
Jim Brace-Tompson
<jbraceth@adelpia.net>

Long Range Planning
Dr. Robert Carlson
<drobotcarlson@yahoo.com>

Name Badge
Frank Mullaney
<rockyfiv@aol.com>

Nominating
Dr. Robert Carlson
<drobotcarlson@yahoo.com>

Parliamentarian
Dee Holland
<beauholland@centurytel.net >

Past President's Advisory
Dr. Robert Carlson
<drobotcarlson@yahoo.com>

Photography
Chuck McKie
<chuckmckie@aol.com>

Program Competition
Marge Collins
<margaret@qtm.net>

Public Relations
Fran Sick
<ednfran@epix.net>

Safety
Don Monroe
<donmonroe@wildblue.net>

Show Consultant
Bob Livingston
<gemguy@verizon.net>

Supply and Publications
B. Jay Bowman
<bjb@wildblue.net>

Ways and Means
Glenn Lee
541-276-2365

Uniform Rules
Ron Carman
<rrcarman@centurytel.net>

URC Eligibility Files
Anne Cook
<secretary@amfed.org>

Website/Webmaster
Marty Hart - Chair
<webmaster@amfed.org>

Ad Hoc Competition Study
Ron Carman
<rrcarman@centurytel.net>

Ad Hoc Inter-Regional Field Trip
Dick Pankey
<dickpankey@juno.com>

AFMS Scholarship Foundation
Dee Holland, President
<beauholland@centurytel.net >

Shirley Leeson, Vice President
Ruth Bailey, Secretary
Arlene Burkhalter, Treasurer

hopefully some will join as new members.

Have members give talks to schools so kids can see and touch interesting rocks and crystals. Cub and boy scouts, girl scouts and 4-H clubs are other good places to recruit kids who often have need to complete projects of related nature. Remember with kids come parents and it is adults that you want to begin filling voids in offices, committee chairs, work on fundraisers and just add to the camaraderie so important to get things really rolling again.

Often, if you ask, a shopping center/ mall will let you set up a table with sign or banner for a few hours on a weekend to attract potential members. Have handouts stating where/ when you meet and what first timers can expect etc.

-- Be sure to take full advantage of the help possible to your club from the federation folks elected to serve you in your respective geographic area. At Eastern, they are your Regional VPs and area reps. The important thing is to make it a point to get to know these folks. They are ordinary folks who were elected to help. They too want to see a "down" club come back and thrive.

-- Though with ever increasing restrictions it is tougher, try hard to arrange a club-collecting trip or two to known natural areas or negotiate a

reduced fee in a "fee collecting area." Some federations are loosely-connected to field trip groups who have collecting spots over wide- spread areas. If available, this is one way of getting some trips off the ground for your eager group.

-- Organize and plan an annual club picnic and December holiday party for members and guests. This should be quite easy as members self-fund it.

-- As soon as practical it is very helpful to create a club brochure. A two-sided 8 1/2" x 11" trifold works well to get your club story across to potential, and new members.

-- Today a club webpage is becoming more and more important. Today's families that you want to attract are geared to getting info "on line." My home club in first half of 2007, had almost 200 persons print a \$1 off coupon from our site and turn it in for ticket savings at the Syracuse show. Those are persons we probably would not have attracted otherwise.

-- Lastly, after some successful years under your belt, if you don't have one, consider starting an annual fundraiser like an outdoor swap or small show at a good convenient time. Ponder this carefully as they do take manpower but can be a good source of extra money for your club treasury. Whatever you do, stick with the dates you establish year after year. It is the kiss of death to keep changing dates and location of your big event.

You might even do as the aging Charleston, WV club did and seek the help and services of a good established show dealer to lend a hand and act as a quasi show chairman. As a dealer in the show, a guy like that has a vested interest in success too. I am told Charleston, WV is content letting a show dealer shoulder some of the dealer solicitation and set-up worry and responsibility. It seems to be working well for them.

This concludes this 3-part series. Hopefully, it was found to be worthwhile by those clubs who may be having a hard time to stay afloat. Others can always consider it "FYI." Please write to your federation newsletter editor if you have other suggestions. Later on, we will consider publishing an addendum on this overall subject if we get some good feedback of what worked best in your special situation.

IMPORTANT:

Club make up, problem areas, and dedication to the task at hand vary all over the lot. So there can be no guarantees by the author or any federation that any of this will be a magic pill in your case. This collection offers suggestions only to perhaps help a struggling club get back on its feet.

AFMS LAND USE POLICY

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.
2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.
3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.
4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.
5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.
6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.
7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.
8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.
9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the "Public Image" of recreational collectors.